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SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

8 July 1952

STAFF MEMORANDUM NO. 253

SUBJECT: DRAFT MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL HODGSON on JIC(52) 15/1  
(Final), "Soviet Intentions in Germany."

1. The Board has reviewed JIC(52) 15/1 (Final) dated 17 June 1952 and is in general agreement with the views therein. We doubt, however, that the Kremlin will risk free elections in Germany or the establishment of an all-German government under conditions acceptable to the Western Powers.

2. With respect to Berlin, the consensus of O/NE opinion is that the odds against a surface blockade before mid-1953 are better than even, but that they may change suddenly as a result of events in Germany or elsewhere. Various and increasing Soviet pressures on West Berlin are certainly to be expected, as well as harassing measures against traffic between West Berlin and West Germany. Such harassing measures would probably increase substantially and progressively after ratification of the contractual and EDC agreements.

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